

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04330 070418Z
ACTION EA-12

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJ: HSI CHUNG-HSUN TO BE REHABILITATED TO KWANGTUNG POST

1. SUMMARY: FORMER VICE PREMIER/STATE COUNCIL SECRETARY-GENERAL HEC CHUNG-HSUN WILL BE APPONTED SOON AS DE-FACTO CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF KWANGTUNG PROVINCE, ACCORDING TO REPORTS IN THE HONG KONG PRC-CONTROLLED PRESS. BECAUSE KWANGTUNG PARTY CHIEF WEI KUO-CHING IS TOO BUSY WITH WORK IN PEKING TO HANDLE DAY-TO-DAY PROVINCIAL ADMINSTRTION THE JOB, BUT NOT THE TITLE, WILL BE GIVEN TO RECENTLY REHABILITATED HSU, WHO HAS STRONG LINKS TO TENG HSIAO-PP ING, FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER PENG TEH-HUAI AND THE LATE CHOU EN-LAI, THE APPOINTMENT IS SEEN AS A MOVE BY TENG AND HIS SUPPORTERS TO CONSOLIDATE POWWER IN THEIR KWANG-TUNG PROVINCE STRONGHOLD. END SUMMMARY

2. FORMER VICE-PREMIER/SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
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STATE COUNCIL, AS WELL AS DIRCTOR OF THE PARTY PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT, HSI CHUNG-HSUN (5045/0112/0534), WILL SOON BE APPOINTED TO A LEADING POSITION IN KWANG-TUNG PROVINCE, ACCORDING TO HONG KONG NEWSPAPERS. THE PRC-CONTROLLED HSIN WAN PAO REPORTED APRIL 5 THAT HSI, WHO WAS PURGED 16 YEARS AGO AND REHABILITATED ONLY IN FEBRUARY AT THE POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE

(CPPCC) WILL BE "ACTUALLY IN CHARGE OF THE WORK IN KWANGTUNG". ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, HSI WILL PROBABLY BE NAMED PARTY SECOND SECRETARY AND FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE KWANGTUNG REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE.

3. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT FIRST SECRETARY WEI KUO-CHING IS REQUIRED BY HIS NATIONAL PARTY POSITIONS, INCLUDING DIRECTOR OF THE PLA GENERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, TO SPEND MOST OF HIS TIME IN PEKING, AND IS THUS UNABLE TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO DAILY PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION. HE WILL, HOWEVER, REMAIN NOMINALLY IN CHARGE OF KWANGTUNG. HSI'S NEW POSITION WAS COMPARED BY HSIN WAN PAO TO THAT OF THIRD SECRETARY PENG CHUNG IN SHANGHAI. PENG IS DE-FACTO MAYOR IN THE ABSENCE OF SU CHEN-HUA AND NI CHIH-FU, WHO HOLD IMPORTANT POSTS IN PEKING. THE POSITIONS OF THE PRESENT NUMBER TWO AND THREE MEN IN KWANGTUNG, CHIAO LIN-YI AND WANG SHOU-TAO, ARE UNLIKELY TO BE IMPROVED BY HSI'S APPOINTMENT. WANG IN PARTICULAR APPEARS TO BE IN ECLIPSE, LARGELY BECAUSE OF ILL-HEALTH.

4. HSIN WAN PAO REPORTED THAT HSI'S APPOINTMENT WOULD BE ANNOUNCED AT AN IMPORTANT MEETING TO BE HELD SOON IN KWANGTUNG, PRESUMABLY A PLENUM OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE OR A PROVINCIAL PARTY CONGRESS. HSI IS SAID TO BE IN CANTON ALREADY PARTICIPATING IN PROVINCIAL WORK.

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PATING IN PROVINCIAL WORK.

5. THE 66 YEAR OLD HSI, BORN IN SHENSI AND FORMERLY AN ASSOCIATE OF EX-DEFENSE MINISTER PENG TEH-HUAI, CHOU EN-LAI AND TENG HSIAO-PING WAS PURGED IN 1962, APPARENTLY ON THE BASIS OF HIS LINKS TO PENG. HSI ACTED AS POLITICAL COMMISSAR OF THE PLA NORTHWEST MILITARY REGION AT THE TIME TENG WAS CHIEF OF THE SOUTHWEST MILITARY REGION. AS SECRETARY GENERAL AND VICE-PREMIER OF THE STATE COUNCIL, HSI WORKED CLOSELY WITH PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI AND VICE-PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING FROM 1954-1962. MOREOVER, AS PARTY PROPAGANDA CHIEF HSI WAS AGAIN ASSOCIATED WITH TENG, WHO AT THAT TIME WAS PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL. IN 1967 HSI WAS FURTHER VILLIFIED AS AN AGENT OF "CHINA'S KHRUSHCHEV", LIU SHAO-CHI.

6. COMMENT: HSI'S APPOINTMENT, IF CONFIRMED, CAN BE SEEN AS A CONSOLIDATION OF POWER BY TENG AND HIS SUPPORTERS IN KWANGTUNG, ALREADY A MAJOR POWER BASE FOR TENG. IT CAN ALSO BE SEEN AS A CONTINUATION OF TENG'S POLICY OF REHABILITATING CADRES WITH EXTENSIVE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE. ALTHOUGH NOT A FULL REHABILITATION

TO THE HIGH POSITIONS HE PREVIOUSLY HELD, HSI'S APPOINT-
MENT WOULD BE A GESTURE OF FAITH IN HIS COMPETENCE AND
PRESUMABLY AN INDICATION THAT SUCCESS IN THIS POST COULD
LEAD TO REAPPOINTMENT TO HIS HIGHER LEVELS OF THE PAST.
SHOSEMITH

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